

hesitation, that you could have interlocal agreements. What we are going to do is take and leave those interlocal agreements but add in another section which provides for the merger and consolidation of counties and other local governments. It seems to be common since it seems that we should have had that power all along, although there are some question about it, and that's the reason that that first part is put in there. The other parts, this, again, goes to the mergers or consolidations, must have a majority vote of the people in both entities. So, in other words, you can't have hostile takeovers of a county or a function or something like that. You've got to have consent to do those. The second part that I think is extremely important that people need to do and that's in the area of county structures, and we talked about Senator Hillman's bill, we began to talk about Article IX and the counties. We do away with townships as a constitutional office. So if you look through these things, and I think Senator Wickersham had talked earlier that we may have to make some changes because we are doing away with townships; we are not doing away with them. What we are doing is taking them out of the constitution because if you want to merge and get rid of a township, you can't do it because constitutionally they are there and they can say you can't do away with us. Township form of government has probably lost its general prevail in the state of Nebraska. I think there is 27 counties right now that are under a township form of government. Most of those townships were formed as a way to get around the fifty cent requirement in the constitution as well because they would have some other levies, and you could say that wasn't necessarily at county level. There were some arguments about that over history but the basic thing we are doing is getting rid of Section 5 under Article IX of the counties, and that was that the Legislature can provide by for general law for township organizations. Throughout the constitutional amendment, you will see in other places where we strike the word town or township. That's to take away any notion that we were going to keep townships in the constitution. We don't have a statutory word for town anymore. What we have is city, and that's the statutory definition of cities. If you'd ask me the difference between a town and a city in the constitution, I'd be hard-pressed to tell you. Certainly that's what the statute envisions doing. The other item goes to Senator Brown's discussion...

SENATOR WILL: One minute.